



Volo Broadband
822 Pioneer St
Champaign, IL 61820

July 12th, 2017

RE: FCC Proceeding 17-108

To whom it may concern,

I run and own a fiber and wireless Internet Service Provider that serves several thousand residents of Champaign, Urbana, Thomasboro, and the surrounding areas in Central Illinois, most at gigabit speed. Our primary competitor is Comcast, followed closely by MediaCom and Pavlov Media. I am also a member of the Cable Commission for Champaign and Urbana.

In my experience Title II classification of broadband is preferable to the previous regulatory scheme in many ways. I have experienced ZERO negative consequences to the Title II classification, in contrast to significant hurdles to deal with under the previous classifications scheme, and have seen substantial improvements in my ability to confidently invest in fiber infrastructure due to the classification of broadband as a Title II service.

The benefits of Title II classification for my customers, my business, and me have been:

- 1) It makes the playing field level among all the different technologies that customers use to receive broadband. Previously internet-only services like ours were regulated differently than and those of our competitors (phone and cable companies) which are already regulated as Title II services despite diminishing land-line and cable TV usage and dramatically increasing Internet usage.
- 2) The reclassification allows better access to public Rights of Way for fiber construction, which are often available to Telecommunications providers on MUCH more favorable terms than to Information Service providers. Telecommunications providers pay no fees when accessing most public ROW, whereas all others pay a per-foot per-year fee for such access. The fees would make our services uncompetitive with cable and phone-based internet service, despite their being identical (except for providing better performance!) than those competing services.
- 3) Reclassification in concert with some court and FCC rulings has made it possible for us to assert a right to provide services in some multidwelling buildings where we otherwise would have had no access.

Finally, Title II classification just makes sense to me and my customers: people use internet access primarily as a conduit to reaching websites, which seems to them exactly like making a phone call across state lines to the web server. They expect the same kinds of common carrier experience from their ISP as from their phone company. In the early days of the internet people used ISP email and other services, but over the years we have seen demand for those services dwindle due to fantastic cloud-based replacements to those services (like gmail). While we still offer those services, which are truly Information Services, they account for about 1% of our revenue at this time.

All of these combine to significant consumer benefits to Title II classification, as well as that classification supporting innovation better than the previous regulatory scheme. I hope that the Commission will retain Title II classification, dealing with any perceived issues with it via other rulemaking and legislative mechanisms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Folk".

Peter Folk
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